

Application Serial No. 10/700,138
Amendment dated August 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 26, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 49, 103 and 105-106 are cancelled.

Claims 64 and 65 have been corrected by correcting typographical errors in each, and not for reasons of patentability. This removes the objections to claims 64, 65, 72, 73, 83, 82, 75, 70, 71, 81, 80 and 74 in the first paragraph of page 2 of the action mailed May 26, 2004.

Claim 47 has been rewritten in independent form, including the details of prior independent claim 43. Claim 47 is thus not subject to a §112 rejection, nor are dependent claims 57 and 61. Claim 47 stands in its original version, the only change being its conversion to independent form. Thus, claim 47 is not amended in any way relative to its patentability.

Claims 49 and 103-106 were rejected under 35 USC §102 over Winstead Patent No. 2,606,987. Claims 49, 103 and 105-106 are cancelled, leaving claim 104 rewritten in independent form. Claim 104 is not amended, but simply rewritten in independent form. It is clearly not anticipated by Windstead '987 since Winstead does not show the element wherein the isolating step comprises partially separating the heater means from the sealing element by a space.

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Applicant submits herewith its terminal disclaimer, executed by the undersigned.

Accordingly, all claims remaining in the case are clearly allowable over the Examiner's rejections. The claims remaining are:

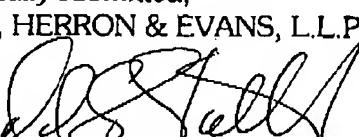
Claims 1, 4, 7, 13, 19, 22, 23, 47, 57, 61, 63-92, 102 and 104. All are allowable.

Applicant believes no fee is due in connection with this Amendment, however, if any charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to our Deposit Account 23-3000.

Reconsideration and Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

By:

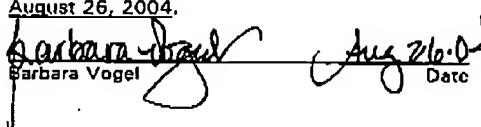


David S. Stallard
Reg. No. 25,930

2700 Carew Tower
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(513) 241-2324

Certificate of Facsimile

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited via facsimile to The Honorable Commissioner in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, fax number is (703) 872-9306, Attention Examiner John Jeffery on
August 26, 2004.


Barbara Vogel Date